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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 003605

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: ACTING SRSG EXPRESSES CONCERNS OVER ELECTION LAW  
AND UNAMI OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Classified By: AMBASSADOR ZALMAY KHALILZAD FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) AND (d)

1.(C) Summary. Acting Special Representative of the UN  
Secretary-General (A/SRSG) Michael von der Schulenburg told

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the Ambassador September 1 that UNAMI needed a final version of the draft constitution in order to conduct its outreach program via the Public Distribution System (PDS). Schulenburg expressed concern that the election law, if passed, may prove too difficult to actually implement in time for the December 15 election. He also said he was weighing the appropriate level of UN involvement in Kirkuk issues. End summary.

2. (C) A/SRSG Michael von der Schulenburg told the Ambassador that UNAMI will not be able to conduct its planned outreach program via the PDS due to ongoing changes to the draft permanent constitution. As a key component of its outreach program, Schulenburg said that UNAMI planned to use the PDS to deliver a copy of the draft constitution to virtually every Iraqi household so the electorate could review the draft prior to the referendum. Schulenburg said that UNAMI could only proceed with the PDS outreach program if it received formal authorization from the TNA to release a final draft.

3. (C) The Ambassador noted that Sunni representatives are engaged with the Kurds and Shi'a concerning textual adjustments that could result in broader Sunni support for the constitution at the referendum. The Ambassador emphasized that this is an Iraqi process, and that the international community needs to support the Iraqi efforts to arrive at an agreeable text.

4. (C) Schulenburg said he was concerned about the pending election law, and said that the law, if passed as now drafted, may be impossible to implement prior to the December 15 elections. He added that the agreements made by the key parties in the past few weeks are now being ignored, and that too many key actors are out of the country and unavailable to get the law back on track. He added that the current draft of the election law only requires that one in four candidates on party lists be women. He cautioned that this would be insufficient to guarantee that women would constitute 25 percent of Assembly membership. He also said that Deputy Speaker Shahrastani had raised concerns about the scheme for distributing the 45 compensatory seats, due to fear that the Kurds would manipulate this provision. The Ambassador stressed the importance of passage of an election law that best serves all Iraqis, and urged the UN to continue pressing the IECE to clarify these key issues.

5. (C) Regarding Kirkuk, Schulenburg said he was trying to determine the level of UN involvement on Kirkuk issues. While the rest of Iraq experienced somewhat small increases in registered voters during the August voter registration update campaign, he said the campaign recorded approximately 100,000 new registrations in Kirkuk. He also expressed concern over the lack of progress on Kirkuk claims submitted to the Iraqi Property Claims Commission. Khalilzad